



phone 870.336.3434 1.888.336.4249 fax 870.336.3401 office 2400 Ritter Drive, Jonesboro, GA 30508
FCC Mail Room www.getritter.info

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Received & Inspected

OCT 22 2013

CONFIDENTIAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION-SUBJECT
TO PROTECTIVE ORDER IN WC DOCKET NOS. 10-90, 07-
135, 05-337, 03-109, CC DOCKET NOS. 01-92, 96-45, GN
DOCKET NO. 09-51, WT DOCKET NO. 10-208, BEFORE
THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

REDACTED-FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

October 18, 2013

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary of Commission
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket WC Nos. 10-90 and 11-42 FCC Form 481

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Please accept for filing the attached four copies of the redacted, FCC Form 481 for E. Ritter Telephone Company (SAC 401722). This filing is subject to section 0.549 of the FCC's Rules.

Also included is an extra copy of the redacted filing that I request you to date stamp and return to me in the enclosed, postage paid envelope.

If you have any questions about this or need any additional information, I can be contacted at 870-336-2345 or john.strode@rittercommunications.com.

Sincerely,
RITTER COMMUNICATIONS HOLDINGS, INC.

John Strode
Vice President

attachments

Stamp of October 22, 2013
LRA/ASODE

0+3

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010> Study Area Code 401722

<015> Study Area Name E RITTER TEL CO

<020> Program Year 2014

<030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data John Strode

<035> Contact Telephone Number: 8703362345
Number of the person identified in data line <030><039> Contact Email Address: John.Strode@RitterCommunications.com
Email of the person identified in data line <030>Received & Indexed
OCT 22 2013
FCC Mail Room

| ANNUAL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS | | 54.313 Completion Required | 54.422 Completion Required |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | (check box when complete) | |
| <100> Service Quality Improvement Reporting | (complete attached worksheet) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <200> Outage Reporting (voice) | (complete attached worksheet) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <210> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <-- check box if no outages to report | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <300> Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice) | <input type="text" value="0"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <310> Detail on Attempts (voice) | (attach descriptive document) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <320> Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband) | <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <330> Detail on Attempts (broadband) | (attach descriptive document) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <400> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice) | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <410> Fixed | <input type="text" value="0.0"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <420> Mobile | <input type="text" value="0.0"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <430> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broadband) | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <440> Fixed | <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <450> Mobile | <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <500> Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance | (check to indicate certification) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <510> <input type="text" value="401722ar510"/> | (attach descriptive document) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <600> Functionality in Emergency Situations | (check to indicate certification) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <610> <input type="text" value="401722ar610"/> | (attach descriptive document) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <700> Company Price Offerings (voice) | (complete attached worksheet) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <710> Company Price Offerings (broadband) | (complete attached worksheet) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <800> Operating Companies and Affiliates | (complete attached worksheet) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <900> Tribal Land Offerings (Y/N)? <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> | (if yes, complete attached worksheet) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <1000> Voice Services Rate Comparability | (check to indicate certification) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <1010> <input type="text"/> | (attach descriptive document) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <1100> Terrestrial Backhaul (Y/N)? <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> | (if not, check to indicate certification) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <1110> | (complete attached worksheet) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <1200> Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers | (complete attached worksheet) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Price Cap Carriers, Proceed to Price Cap Additional Documentation Worksheet
Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers<2000> (check to indicate certification)
<2005> (complete attached worksheet)Rate of Return Carriers, Proceed to ROR Additional Documentation Worksheet<3000> (check to indicate certification)
<3005> (complete attached worksheet)

(800) Operating Companies
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

| | | |
|-------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <010> | Study Area Code | 401722 |
| <015> | Study Area Name | E RITTER TEL CO |
| <020> | Program Year | 2014 |
| <030> | Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data | John Strode |
| <035> | Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> | 8703162345 |
| <039> | Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> | John.Strode@RitterCommunications.com |
| <810> | Reporting Carrier | E. Ritter Telephone Company, Inc. |
| <811> | Holding Company | Ritter Communications Holdings, Inc. |
| <812> | Operating Company | |

[illegible]

| | |
|--|--|
| (1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting Data Collection Form | FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013 |
|--|--|

| | | |
|-------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <010> | Study Area Code | 401722 |
| <015> | Study Area Name | E RITTER TEL CO |
| <020> | Program Year | 2014 |
| <030> | Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data | John Strobe |
| <035> | Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> | 8703342345 |
| <039> | Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> | John.Strobe@RitterCommunications.com |

Please check this box to confirm no terrestrial backhaul
<1120> options exist within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(G) ☒

Please check this box to confirm the reporting carrier offers
<1130> broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps
upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(G) ☒

| | |
|--|--|
| (1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers Lifeline Data Collection Form | FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013 |
|--|--|

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <010> Study Area Code | 401722 |
| <015> Study Area Name | E RITTER TEL CO |
| <020> Program Year | 2014 |
| <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data | John Strobe |
| <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> | 8703362345 |
| <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> | John.Strobe@RitterCommunications.com |

| | |
|---|--|
| <1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans | 401722ar1210 Name of attached document (.pdf) |
|---|--|

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| <1220> Link to Public Website | HTTP |
|-------------------------------|------|

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

Data Collection Form

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

| | | |
|-------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <010> | Study Area Code | 401722 |
| <015> | Study Area Name | E RITTER TEL CO |
| <020> | Program Year | 2014 |
| <030> | Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data | John Strode |
| <035> | Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> | 8703162345 |
| <039> | Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> | John.Strode@RitterCommunications.com |

CHECK the boxes below to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental Connect America Phase I support, frozen High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e) the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

<2010> 2nd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)) ☐

<2011> 3rd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(2)) ☐

Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification (47 CFR § 54.312(a))

<2012> 2013 Frozen Support Certification ☐

<2013> 2014 Frozen Support Certification ☐

<2014> 2015 Frozen Support Certification ☐

<2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Certification ☐

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support (47 CFR § 54.313(d))

<2016> Certification Support Used to Build Broadband ☐

Connect America Phase II Reporting (47 CFR § 54.313(e))

<2017> 3rd year Broadband Service Certification ☐

<2018> 5th year Broadband Service Certification ☐

<2019> Interim Progress Certification ☐

<2020> Please check the box to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 2021, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (e)(3)(ii), as a recipient of CAF Phase II support shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year. ☐

<2021> Interim Progress Community Anchor Institutions ☐

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| (3000) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation | | FCC Form 481 |
| Data Collection Form | | OMB Control No. 3050-0985/OMB Control No. 3050-0819 |
| | | July 2013 |
| <01> | Study Area Code | 401722 |
| <01> | Study Area Name | E. RITTER TEL CO |
| <02> | Program Year | 2014 |
| <03> | Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data | John Strobe |
| <03> | Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <03> | 8703362345 |
| <03> | Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <03> | John.Strobe@rittercommunications.com |

CHECK the boxes below to note compliance on its five year service quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Progress Report on 5 Year Plan

| | | | |
|--------|---|--|--|
| (3010) | Milestone Certification [47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)] Please check this box to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3012, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(1)(i), as a recipient of CAF Phase II support shall provide the number, name, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year. | Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3012) | Community Anchor Institutions [47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)] | Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes/No) |
| (3013) | Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier [47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)] | | <input type="checkbox"/> (Yes/No) |
| (3014) | If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires: | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3015) | Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers) | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3016) | PDF of Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3017) | If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation | Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes/No) |
| (3018) | If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited? If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains: | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3019) | Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3020) | PDF of Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3021) | Management letter issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit. If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains: | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3022) | Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3023) | Borrowers | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3024) | Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3025) | Underlying information subjected to an officer certification | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3025) | PDF of Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3026) | Attach the worksheet listing required information | Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information | 401722ap3026 |

| | |
|---|--|
| Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form | FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013 |
|---|--|

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <010> Study Area Code | 401722 |
| <015> Study Area Name | E RITTER TEL CO |
| <020> Program Year | 2014 |
| <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data | John Strode |
| <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> | 8703362345 |
| <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> | John.Strode@RitterCommunications.com |

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

| Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients | |
|---|---|
| I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate. | |
| Name of Reporting Carrier: E RITTER TEL CO | |
| Signature of Authorized Officer: CERTIFIED ONLINE | Date 10/10/2013 |
| Printed name of Authorized Officer: John Strode | |
| Title or position of Authorized Officer: VP External Affairs | |
| Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 870.336.2345 | |
| Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 401722 | Filing Due Date for this form: 10/15/2013 |
| Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001. | |

REFERENCE WC DOCKET NOS. 10-90 AND 11-42

CONFIDENTIAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER IN WC DOCKET NOS. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109,
CC DOCKET NO. 01-92, 96-45, GN DOCKET NO. 09-51, WT DOCKET NO. 10-208, BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Received & Inspected
OCT 22 2013
FCC Mail Room

Attachments

In establishing this certification in its *2005 ETC Order*,¹ the FCC found that an ETC must make “a specific commitment to objective measures to protect consumers.”² The Commission found that for wireless ETCs, compliance with CTIA’s Consumer Code for Wireless Service would satisfy this requirement” and that the sufficiency of other commitments would be considered on a case-by-case basis.³ In this context, the FCC stated, “to the extent a wireline or wireless ETC applicant is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law, compliance with such laws may meet our requirement.”⁴

E. Ritter Telephone Company, Inc. (“Company”) hereby certifies that it is complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. The Company is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) filing a Local Exchange Tariff pursuant to the requirements of the Arkansas Public Service Commission (APSC) which disclose rates, terms and conditions of service to customers;

(2) consumer protection requirements governing telephone providers which require adherence to APSC’s Telecommunications Providers Rules governing service supplied by Telephone Providers (TP). The basic utility obligations include: (a) Each

¹ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 05-46 (rel. Mar. 17, 2005) (“*2005 ETC Order*”).

² *Id.* at para. 28.

³ *Id.* The FCC noted that under the CTIA Consumer Code, wireless carriers agree to: “(1) disclose rates and terms of service to customers; (2) make available maps showing where service is generally available; (3) provide contract terms to customers and confirm changes in service; (4) allow a trial period for new service; (5) provide specific disclosures in advertising; (6) separately identify carrier charges from taxes on billing statements; (7) provide customers the right to terminate service for changes to contract terms; (8) provide ready access to customer service; (9) promptly respond to consumer inquiries and complaints received from government agencies; and (10) abide by policies for protection of consumer privacy.” *Id.* at n. 71.

⁴ *Id.* at n. 72.

telephone provider shall provide all services and offerings on a continuous 24 hour basis.

For example: (i) Local and toll switched or non-switched circuits and functions. (ii)

Equipment or personnel to receive customer trouble reports; and (iii) Emergency repair service. Each TP shall operate and maintain its entire system so that service is safe, adequate, and reliable. Each TP shall inspect its entire system as necessary to have a reasonable knowledge of the system's condition at all time.

(3) In accordance with APSC Rule 2.01.B, E. Ritter Telephone Company provides the following information in the Customer Information section of its directory (Pages 3 – 13 of the 2013 Directory):

(a) A list and description of all rates for basic local exchange access service and any discounts which would apply to that service;

(b) All billing plans and options available to the customer;

(c) A summary of rules and procedures for the payment, refund, and guarantee of deposits;

(d) A summary of billing rules and procedures;

(e) An itemized bill description, if not shown on the bill;

(f) Procedures for verifying the accuracy of a bill;

(g) A description of any automatic adjustment charge;

(h) A summary of the rules and procedures for paying bills to include payments made to authorized payment agents;

(i) A summary of the delayed payment agreement rules and procedures – information on delayed payment agreements shall say that a customer who is

having difficulty paying a LEC bill may, if qualified, make payments in installments;

(j) A summary of the rules and procedures for suspension, reconnection, and termination of service;

(k) The options available to customers to avoid shut-off of service when a customer is away for an extended period;

(l) A summary of the rules and procedures for giving someone else notice before shutting off a customer's service (Third-Party Notification procedures);

(m) A summary of the rules and procedures for helping households avoid shut-off when there is a serious medical condition, elderly customer, or customer who is an individual with disabilities;

(n) The local and/or toll-free telephone numbers, and a statement that the customer may contact the LEC for a list of authorized payment agents in the customer's area;

(o) Procedures for making a complaint to the LEC and the APSC;

(p) Toll-free and local telephone numbers of the APSC and the mailing and street address of the APSC;

(q) A statement that these Rules are available through each LEC's business office.

Customer billing guidelines set forth in APSC Telephone Providers Rules Section 5 Billing state that each bill shall contain the following information:

1. Name and telephone number or identifying number under which service is billed;
2. The beginning and ending dates of the billing period;

E. Ritter Telephone Company

FCC 481 401722ar510.pdf

3. The net amount of all payments and other credits made to the account during the billing period;
4. Any previous balance due;
5. The amount of any "late payment charge" and an explanation of when it will apply;
6. The date the bill was mailed;
7. A list of all charges or credits, including: a) Deposit installments; b) Deposit refunds; c) Automatic adjustments; d) Customer or minimum charges; e) Taxes, listed by kind; f) Charges for other utility service; g) Charges for non-utility merchandise, service or equipment; h) Basic service; i) Federal end user common line charge j) Equipment; k) Custom calling services.
8. If a LEC uses industry-specific abbreviations for terms that explain the billing, it shall identify them on the bill;
9. A statement that the customer may contact the LEC about any problem with billing or service, or for a delayed payment agreement. The statement shall include an address and a telephone number where customers can call the LEC without charge.

In addition, the Company is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law relating to truth-in-billing requirements, CPNI, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

E. Ritter Telephone Co., Inc. (The Company), hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in §54.202(a)(2).¹ The Company's network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations as required by Section 54.202(a)(2). The Company can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations will also allow the Company to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require.

Specifically, each central office building is supplied with standby generators and battery back-up that enable the central office to keep running until power is restored so long as fuel is available, or until system changes are made to reroute traffic. The Company has battery backup at all office locations and in its electronic equipment sites. Length of run time is determined by the equipment serving the area and the number of customers working out of the equipment. Generators are installed at all Central Office locations. They will continue to run as long as the Company has access to fuel for generators.

¹ Section 54.202(a)(2) requires ETCs that are designated by the Commission to "demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations."

CONFIDENTIAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER IN WC DOCKET NOS. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, CC DOCKET NO. 01-92, 96-45, GN DOCKET NO. 09-51, WT DOCKET NO. 10-208, BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| (800) Operating Companies | FCC Form 481 |
| Data Collection Form | OMB Control No. 3060-0985/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 |
| | July 2013 |

| | | |
|-------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <010> | Study Area Code | 401722 |
| <015> | Study Area Name | E RITTER TEL CO |
| <020> | Program Year | 2014 |
| <030> | Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data | John Strobe |
| <035> | Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> | 8703362345 |
| <039> | Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> | John.Strobes@RitterCommunications.com |
| <810> | Reporting Carrier | E. Ritter Telephone Company, Inc. |
| <811> | Holding Company | Ritter Communications Holdings, Inc. |
| <812> | Operating Company | |

[illegible]

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Section V

1st Revised Sheet No. 5 Replacing Original Sheet No. 5

ALL EXCHANGES

**E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY
DBA RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY**

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE (cont.)

PSC File Mark Only

10. LIFELINE SERVICE

- 10.1 Service - Lifeline Service is a service offered to certain qualified residential customers of the Company. This service provides for a discount from the local access rate charged by the Company.

The Company will also seek a waiver to the maximum amount authorized by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") of the federal customer line charge ("SLC") to be applied under its approved lifeline plan.

- 10.2 Qualification - Lifeline Service is available only to Food Stamp, federal public housing assistance or Section 8 programs, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Medicaid (including Supplemental Security Income), Aid to Families with Dependent Children recipients, recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, participants in the National School Lunch free lunch program, or families whose household income falls below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. A directory listing (if desired) and billing for Lifeline Service will only be provided in the name of and at the address of the certified recipient.

Lifeline Service customers will self certify annually that they continue to be eligible.

10.2.1 The Customer will certify under penalty of perjury that the information supplied at the time of application for Lifeline service is accurate. The Company will obtain sufficient documentation from the customer to verify that the customer qualifies for Lifeline and an officer of the Company will certify that the Company has procedures to review the application for Lifeline Service in accordance with 47 U.S.C. Part 54.

(CT)

(CT)

(AT)

(AT)

Issued:

By: John D. Strobe, President
E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY
DBA RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Effective: June 22, 2005

ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Section V

2nd Revised Sheet No. 6 Replacing 1st Revised Sheet No. 6

ALL EXCHANGES

**E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY
DBA RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY**

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE (cont.)

PSC File Mark Only

- 10.3 Rate - The amount of the Lifeline Service discounted rate, which will be deducted from the normal residential access rate is as follows:
- (CT) One-Party Residential \$2.75
- The above amount will be in addition to any reduction in the SLC by the FCC.

PREPAID LOCAL SERVICE (PLS)

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. Prepaid Local Service (PLS) is a service offering which provides residence customers one month of access to the public switched network upon acknowledged receipt of cash payment at an authorized payment agency.
- 1.2. PLS provides access to the public switched network via a voice grade facility, the ability to place and receive calls, Touch Tone, a standard directory listing, and blocking of access to services with usage sensitive charges.
- 1.3. The following tariffed services are also optionally available to PLS customers: Caller ID; Call Waiting; Call Forward; Speed Calling; Warm Line; Non-listed Directory Listings; Non-published Directory Listings; Extra Listings; 3-Way Calling; Auto-Call Back; Auto-Call Return.
- 1.4. The following non-tariffed services offered through Ritter are also optionally available to PLS customers: Flat Rate Jack Installation, Flat Rate Set Handling.

2. REGULATIONS

- 2.1. PLS service is available for residential customers only.
- 2.2. PLS will be provided for a period of one month upon acknowledged receipt of payment.

Issued:

By: John D. Strobe, Vice President
E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY
DBA RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Effective: May 10, 2012

REFERENCE WC DOCKET NOS. 10-90 AND 11-42

CONFIDENTIAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER IN WC DOCKET NOS. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109,
CC DOCKET NO. 01-92, 96-45, GN DOCKET NO. 09-51, WT DOCKET NO. 10-208, BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION



SMC 401722 AR 3026.pdf

401722 AR 3026.pdf
FILE

E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Financial Statements

December 31, 2012 and 2011

(With Independent Auditors' Report Thereon)



KPMG LLP
Suite 900
50 North Front Street
Memphis, TN 38103-1194

Independent Auditors' Report

The Board of Directors
E. Ritter Telephone Company:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of E. Ritter Telephone Company (a wholly owned subsidiary of E. Ritter Communications Holdings, Inc.,) which comprise the balance sheets as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the related statements of operations and retained earnings, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly in all material respects, the financial position of E. Ritter Telephone Company as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

KPMG LLP

March 28, 2013

E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Balance Sheets

December 31, 2012 and 2011

| Assets | 2012 | 2011 |
|---|------|------|
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ | |
| Accounts receivable, net | | |
| Deferred income taxes | | |
| Materials and supplies | | |
| Income taxes receivable from E. Ritter & Company | | |
| Other | | |
| Total current assets | | |
| Noncurrent assets: | | |
| Nonregulated investments, net | | |
| Investments | | |
| Deferred income taxes | | |
| Total noncurrent assets | | |
| Telephone plant: | | |
| In-service | | |
| Less accumulated depreciation | | |
| Net telephone plant | \$ | |
| Liabilities and Stockholder's Equity | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ | |
| Due to affiliates | | |
| Income taxes payable to E. Ritter & Company | | |
| Accrued expenses | | |
| Customer deposits and advance billings | | |
| Total current liabilities | | |
| Deferred credits and other liabilities: | | |
| Investment tax credits | | |
| Advance billings | | |
| Other | | |
| Total deferred credits and other liabilities | | |
| Stockholder's equity: | | |
| Common stock, [REDACTED] par value. Authorized [REDACTED]; issued | | |
| and outstanding [REDACTED] shares | | |
| Additional paid-in capital | | |
| Retained earnings | | |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | | |
| Total stockholder's equity | \$ | |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Statements of Operations and Retained Earnings

Years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|
| Operating revenues: | | |
| Local service | \$ | |
| Network access | | |
| Long distance | | |
| Other | | |
| Nonregulated sales | | |
| Total operating revenues | | |
| Operating expenses: | | |
| Plant operations | | |
| Depreciation | | |
| Customer operations | | |
| Corporate operations | | |
| Nonregulated expenses | | |
| Taxes – other than income taxes | | |
| Total operating expenses | | |
| Operating income | | |
| Other income (expense): | | |
| Interest income | | |
| Interest expense | | |
| Loss on sale or abandonment of assets | | |
| Total other expense, net | | |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | | |
| Provision (benefit) for income taxes | | |
| Net income (loss) | | |
| Retained earnings: | | |
| Beginning of year | | |
| Dividends | | |
| End of year | \$ | |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)

Years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|------|------|
| Net income (loss) | \$ | |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax: | | |
| Unrealized holding gains arising during period | | |
| Other comprehensive income | | |
| Comprehensive income (loss) | \$ | |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Statements of Cash Flows

Years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|------|------|
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | |
| Net income (loss) | \$ | |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities: | | |
| Noncash operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation | | |
| Change in deferred credits | | |
| Change in deferred taxes | | |
| Uncollectible operating revenues | | |
| Loss on sale or abandonment of assets | | |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | |
| Accounts receivable | | |
| Materials and supplies | | |
| Accounts payable | | |
| Due to affiliates | | |
| Income taxes payable | | |
| Accrued expenses | | |
| Customer deposits and advanced billings | | |
| Other, net | | |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | | |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | |
| Purchase of investments | | |
| Capital expenditures | | |
| Net cash used in investing activities | | |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | |
| Payment of dividends | | |
| Net cash used in financing activities | | |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents: | | |
| Beginning of year | | |
| End of year | \$ | |
| Supplemental cash flow disclosures: | | |
| Income taxes paid | \$ | |
| Interest paid to E. Ritter Communications Holdings, Inc. | | |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2012 and 2011

(1) Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Organization

E. Ritter Telephone Company (the Company) is a wholly owned subsidiary of E. Ritter Communications Holdings, Inc. (RCH or the Parent), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of E. Ritter & Company (ERC).

The Company provides local service, network access, high speed data service, long-distance, and other telecommunications products and services to businesses and individuals in Northeastern Arkansas. As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company was providing local service to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] access lines, respectively, and residential high speed data service to [REDACTED] customers, respectively. In addition, approximately [REDACTED] of the Company's local service customers had selected the Company as their primary long-distance service provider as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

(b) General Disclosure of Regulatory Matters

The Company's telephone operations are regulated in nature and its telephone accounting records are maintained in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Arkansas Public Services Commission, which substantially adhere to the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission. The Company's regulated operations are subject to the provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 980, *Regulated Operations*. The Company's regulated operations were subject to the provisions of regulatory accounting under which actions by regulators can provide reasonable assurance of the recognition of an asset, reduce or eliminate the value of an asset, and impose a liability on a regulated enterprise. Such regulatory assets and liabilities are required to be recorded and, accordingly, reflected in the balance sheets of an entity subject to regulatory accounting.

(c) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. The estimates and assumptions used in the accompanying financial statements are based upon management's evaluation of the relevant facts and circumstances as of the date of the financial statements. Actual results realized may differ from these estimates.

(d) Cash Equivalents

The Company considers all highly liquid short-term investments purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

(e) Materials and Supplies

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost (determined using average cost method) or market, except for copper wire and fiber optic cable inventories, which are valued at the lower of cost (determined using specific identification method) or market.

E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2012 and 2011

(f) Telephone Plant and Depreciation

Telephone plant in-service is stated at original cost, including general overhead capitalized and an allowance for funds used during construction. For financial reporting purposes, the Company provides for depreciation using straight-line composite rates over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Telephone plant not subject to regulation is included in nonregulated investments.

When telephone plant is retired, the original cost, net of salvage, is charged against accumulated depreciation. The cost of maintenance and repairs of telephone plant, including the cost of replacing minor items not affecting substantial betterments, is charged to maintenance expense as incurred. When nonregulated property is retired, the cost of the property and the related accumulated depreciation are removed from the balance sheets, and any gain or loss on the transaction is recorded.

During 2011, the Company abandoned its Marked Tree, Arkansas administrative office building. This building represented substantially all of the buildings asset class and the remaining net book value of this building, [REDACTED] was charged to expense.

(g) Long-Lived Assets

The Company reviews the carrying value of its long-lived assets (telephone plant) for impairment whenever events and circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable from the estimated future cash flows expected to result from its use and eventual disposition. When undiscounted expected future cash flows are less than the carrying value, an impairment loss is recognized equal to an amount by which the carrying value exceeds the fair value of the asset. The factors considered by the Company in performing this assessment include current operating results, trends and prospects, as well as the effects of obsolescence, demand, competition and other economic factors.

(h) Revenue Recognition – Network Access and Long-Distance Settlements

Revenues are recognized when earned and are primarily derived from usage of the Company's local exchange networks and facilities. The Company accrues unbilled revenues earned from the date of the customers' last billing to the end of the accounting period.

The Company also participates in revenue pooling arrangements with other local service providers. Such pools were funded by local interexchange carriers and other providers of telecommunications services. Settlements with these revenue pooling arrangements are subject to retroactive adjustments from the pool members. The impacts of these adjustments are recorded in the period in which they are reported to the applicable pool administrator. During 2012 and 2011, the Company recorded out-of-period pooling adjustments of [REDACTED] (decrease to earnings) and [REDACTED] (decrease to earnings) in network access revenue, respectively.

(i) Income Taxes

Income taxes are accounted for using the asset and liability method. Deferred taxes are recognized for the tax consequences of temporary differences by applying enacted statutory rates applicable to future years to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts and the tax bases of

E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2012 and 2011

existing assets and liabilities. The Company is included in the ERC consolidated federal and state tax returns. Income tax expense is calculated on a separate return computational basis.

The Company recognizes tax positions that are more likely than not to be sustained. The Company has determined that it does not have any material unrecognized tax benefits as of December 31, 2012. Years ending on or after December 31, 2010 remain subject to examination by federal and state authorities.

(j) Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable are stated at the historical carrying amounts net of write-offs and allowances for doubtful accounts. The allowance for doubtful accounts reflects the Company's best estimate of probable losses inherent in the Company's receivables determined on the basis of historical experience, market conditions, current trends and any specifically identified customer collection issues. Uncollectible accounts are written off when a settlement is reached for an amount that is less than the outstanding historical balance or when the Company has determined that collection of the balance is unlikely. At December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company had recorded allowances of [REDACTED] respectively.

(k) Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

The Company has estimated the fair value of its financial instruments using available market information or other appropriate valuation methodologies. Considerable judgment, however, is required in interpreting market data to develop certain estimates of fair value. Accordingly, certain estimates are not necessarily indicative of the amounts that the Company would realize in a current market exchange.

The carrying value of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and due to affiliates approximates fair value because of the short maturity of those instruments.

(l) Subsequent Events

The Company has evaluated the effect subsequent events would have on the financial statements through March 28, 2013, which was the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

(2) Telephone Plant

Telephone plant in-service at December 31 is as follows:

| | Estimated useful lives | 2012 | 2011 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------|------|
| Land | | | |
| Support assets | | | |
| Central office switching | | | |
| Central office transmission | | | |
| Cable and wire facilities | | | |

E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2012 and 2011

Depreciation expense for telephone plant was [REDACTED] for 2012 and 2011, respectively. The provision, as a percentage of the average balance of telephone plant in-service, was [REDACTED] in 2012 and 2011, respectively. The Company periodically evaluates the depreciable lives of its property, plant and equipment and makes adjustments to its depreciation rates accordingly.

(3) Income Taxes

The components of the provision (benefit) for income taxes are as follows:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|---------------|------------|
| Current: | | |
| Federal | \$ [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| State | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Investment tax credits | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Deferred: | | |
| Federal | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| State | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Excess deferred taxes (regulatory) | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| | \$ [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| The differences between the federal statutory rate and the Company's | | |
| Federal statutory rate | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| State income taxes – net of federal benefit | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Other | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2012 and 2011

The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to significant components of the Company's net deferred income taxes at December 31 are as follows:

| | <u>2012</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Current deferred tax assets (liabilities): | | |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts | \$ | |
| Marketable equity securities | | |
| Advance billings | | |
| Other | | |
| Net current deferred tax assets | \$ | |
| Noncurrent deferred tax assets (liabilities): | | |
| Advance billings | \$ | |
| Telephone plant | | |
| Net noncurrent deferred tax assets | \$ | |

In assessing the realization of deferred tax assets, management considers whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The ultimate realization of deferred tax assets is dependent upon the generation of future taxable income during the periods in which those temporary differences become deductible. Management considers the scheduled reversal of deferred tax liabilities (including the impact of available carryback and carry-forward periods), projected future taxable income and tax planning strategies in making this assessment. Based upon the level of historical taxable income and projections for future taxable income over the periods in which the deferred tax assets are deductible, management believes it is more likely than not that the Company will realize the benefits of these deductible differences at December 31, 2012. The amount of the deferred tax asset considered realizable, however, could be reduced in the near term if estimates of future taxable income during the carryforward period are reduced.

E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2012 and 2011

(4) Nonregulated Investments, Net

Nonregulated investments, net, at December 31 consist of the following:

| | <u>Estimated useful lives</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Station apparatus | | | |
| Station apparatus – mobile | | | |
| Public telephone terminal equipment | | | |
| Accumulated depreciation | | | |
| Inventory | | | |

Income from nonregulated investments is as follows:

| | <u>2012</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Sales: | | |
| Customer premises equipment revenues | \$ | |
| Internet access | | |
| Other income | | |
| Total sales | | |
| Costs: | | |
| Cost of customer premises equipment | | |
| Internet access and administrative charges | | |
| General and administrative | | |
| Total cost of products sold | | |
| Pretax income (loss) from nonregulated investments | \$ | |

E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2012 and 2011

(5) Operating Leases

The Company leases certain real estate and vehicles under operating leases. Rental expense under these leases was [REDACTED] in 2012 and 2011, respectively. Future minimum lease payments under these leases are as follows:

| |
|------------|
| [REDACTED] |
|------------|

(6) Employee Benefit Plans

The Company leases all its employees from RCH, and all related costs are allocated to the Company.

The Company participates with ERC and ERC's subsidiaries in a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan covering substantially all of the employees of ERC and its subsidiaries. Pension benefits are based on an employee's years of credited service and compensation. ERC's funding policy is to satisfy the funding requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Expense for 2012 and 2011 related to this plan was [REDACTED], respectively, and is included in the allocation of employee costs from RCH.

The Company participates with ERC and ERC's subsidiaries in an employee savings plan under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code (the 401(k) Plan) covering substantially all full-time employees. Employees may elect to contribute a portion of their eligible pretax compensation up to certain limits as specified by the 401(k) Plan. The Company also makes annual contributions to the 401(k) Plan. Expense for 2012 and 2011 related to this plan was [REDACTED], respectively, and is included in the allocation of employee costs from RCH.

(7) Related-Party Transactions

Significant portions of accounting and administrative services are provided to the Company by RCH. These services are primarily billed to the Company in the form of a management fee. Charges to the Company from affiliated entities are calculated based upon cost and a rate of return to provide such services as prescribed by the regulatory process. Charges for these services are as follows:

Management fees – RCH
 Information technology/billing:
 Tri-County Telephone – Elation Software
 Interest expense – RCH

| 2012 | 2011 |
|------------|------------|
| \$ | \$ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| \$ | \$ |

E. RITTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2012 and 2011

The Company was allocated imputed interest costs from RCH based on RCH's capital structure, which totaled [REDACTED] in 2012 and 2011, respectively.

Receivables (payables) arising from related-party transactions at December 31 are as follows:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Ritter Communications, Inc. | \$ [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| RCH | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Tri-County Telephone, Inc. | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Ritter Transport | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| E. Ritter Seed Company | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Ritter Cable Corporation | \$ [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

(8) Concentrations of Credit Risk

Cash deposits in excess of operating requirements are swept daily to overnight investment accounts collateralized by government-backed securities. At December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company also had \$ [REDACTED], respectively, in a repurchase agreement with Liberty Bank of Arkansas collateralized by government-backed securities.

During 2012 and 2011, net revenue settlements received from the National Exchange Carriers Association represented [REDACTED], respectively, of total revenues. During 2012 and 2011, net revenue settlements from the Arkansas Universal Service Fund represented [REDACTED], respectively, of total revenues. No other entity accounted for more than [REDACTED] of total revenues during 2012 and 2011.



870.336.3434 1.888.336.4249 870.336.3401 2400 Ritter Drive, Jonesboro, AR 72401 www.getritter.info

March 27, 2013

KPMG LLP
50 N Front St #900
Memphis, TN 38103-1109

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are providing this letter in connection with your audits of the balance sheets of E. Ritter Telephone Company (the Company) as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 the related statements of income and retained earnings, comprehensive income (loss) and cash flows for each of the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position, results of operations, and cash flows of the Company in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in the light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, as of March 29, 2013, the following representations made to you during your audit:

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter dated June 28, 2012, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.
2. We have made available to you:
 - a. All records, documentation, and information that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements;
 - b. Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audits;
 - c. Unrestricted access and the full cooperation of personnel within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence; and
 - d. All minutes of the meetings of stockholders, directors, and committees of directors, or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
3. Except as disclosed to you in writing, there have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.

E. Ritter Telephone Company
March 27, 2013
Page 2 of 6

4. There are no:
 - a. Violations or possible violations of laws or regulations, whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency.
 - b. Unasserted claims or assessments that our lawyer has advised us are probable of assertion and must be disclosed in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 450, *Contingencies*.
 - c. Other liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed by FASB ASC 450, *Contingencies*.
 - d. Material transactions that have not been properly recorded in the accounting records underlying the financial statements.
 - e. Events that have occurred subsequent to the balance sheet date and through the date of this letter that would require adjustment to or disclosure in the financial statements.
5. All known actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and considered for disclosure in accordance with ASC 450, *Contingencies*.
6. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud; for adopting sound accounting policies; and for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and to provide reasonable assurance against the possibility of misstatements that are material to the financial statements whether due to error or fraud.
7. There are no deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting of which we are aware, which could adversely affect the Company's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data. We have applied the definitions of a "significant deficiency" and a "material weakness" in accordance with the definitions in AU-C Section 265, *Communicating Internal Control Related Matters Identified in an Audit*.
8. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
9. We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving:
 - a. Management
 - b. Employees who have significant roles in internal control over financial reporting, or
 - c. Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
10. We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, analysts, regulators, short sellers, or others.
11. The Company has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities.

E. Ritter Telephone Company
March 27, 2013
Page 3 of 6

12. We have no knowledge of any officer of the Company, or any other person acting under the direction thereof, having taken any action to fraudulently influence, coerce, manipulate or mislead you during your audit.
13. The following have been properly recorded or disclosed in the financial statements:
 - a. Related party relationships and transactions, of which we are aware, in accordance with the requirements of U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, including sales, purchases, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements, guarantees, ongoing contractual commitments and amounts receivable from or payable to related parties.
 - b. Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the Company is contingently liable, including guarantee contracts and indemnification agreements pursuant to FASB ASC 460, *Guarantees*.
 - c. Significant estimates and material concentrations known to management that are required to be disclosed in accordance with FASB ASC 275, *Risks and Uncertainties*.

Significant estimates are estimates at the balance sheet date, which could change materially within the next year. Concentrations refer to volumes of business, revenues, available sources of supply, or markets or geographic areas for which it is reasonably possible that events could occur which would significantly disrupt normal finances within the next year.
- d. Significant common ownership or management control relationships requiring disclosure.
- e. Capital stock repurchase options or agreements or capital stock reserved for options, warrants, conversions, or other requirements.
- f. Arrangements with financial institutions involving compensating balances or other arrangements involving restrictions on cash balances and lines of credit or similar arrangements.
- g. Agreements to repurchase assets previously sold, including sales with recourse.
- h. Changes in accounting principle affecting consistency.
- i. The Company has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets, nor has any asset been pledged as collateral.
14. The Company has complied with all aspects of laws, regulations, and contractual agreements that may affect the financial statements, in the event of noncompliance.
15. There have been no:
 - a. Instances of fraud that could have a material effect on the adjustments.
 - b. Allegations, either written or oral, of misstatements or other misapplication of accounting principles in the Company's adjustments that have not been disclosed to you in writing.
 - c. Allegations, either written or oral, of deficiencies in internal control that could have a material effect on the Company's adjustments that have not been disclosed to you in writing.

E. Ritter Telephone Company
March 27, 2013
Page 4 of 6

- d. False statements affecting the Company's adjustments made to you, our internal auditors, or other auditors who have audited entities under our control upon whose work you may be relying in connection with your audit.
- 16. There are no material transactions that have not been properly recorded in the accounting records underlying the adjustments.
- 17. Receivables reported in the financial statements represent valid claims against debtors for sales or other charges arising on or before the balance sheet date and have been appropriately reduced to their estimated net realizable value.
- 18. The following information about financial instruments with off-balance-sheet risk and financial instruments with concentrations of credit risk has been properly disclosed in the financial statements:
 - a. Extent, nature, and terms of financial instruments with off-balance-sheet risk;
 - b. The amount of credit risk of financial instruments with off-balance-sheet credit risk, and information about the collateral supporting such financial instruments; and
 - c. Significant concentrations of credit risk arising from all financial instruments and information about the collateral supporting such financial instruments.
- 19. The Company has accounted for asset retirement obligations in accordance with FASB ASC 410-20, *Asset Retirement and Environmental Obligations -- Asset Retirement Obligations*. All legal obligations, including those under the doctrine of promissory estoppel, associated with the retirement of tangible long-lived assets have been recognized. The Company recognized the obligations at fair value.
- 20. The Company has appropriately grouped long-lived assets together for purposes of assessing impairment in accordance with FASB ASC 360, *Property, Plant and Equipment*. We have reviewed long-lived assets, including amortizable intangible assets, to be held and used, for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances have indicated that the carrying amount of the assets might not be recoverable. Provision has been made for any material adjustments to long-lived assets including amortizable intangible assets.
- 21. We are responsible for making the fair value measurements and disclosures included in the financial statements in accordance with FASB ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurement and Disclosures*, including determining the fair value of assets and liabilities for which there has been a significant decrease in the volume and level of activity in relation to the normal market activity for those assets or liabilities (or similar assets or liabilities) or for which transactions are deemed not orderly. As part of fulfilling this responsibility, we have established an accounting and financial reporting process for determining the fair value measurements and disclosures, in accordance with the fair value techniques included in FASB ASC 820, considered the appropriateness of valuation techniques, adequately supported any significant assumptions used, and ensured that the presentation and disclosure of the fair value measurements are in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles including the disclosure requirements of FASB ASC 820. We believe the assumptions and techniques used by us, including those used by specialists engaged by us, are in accordance with the definition of fair value in FASB ASC 820 and the disclosures adequately describe the level of the inputs used in the fair value measurement, in accordance with the fair value hierarchy in FASB ASC 820.

E. Ritter Telephone Company

March 27, 2013

Page 5 of 6

22. We believe that all material expenditures that have been deferred to future periods will be recoverable.
23. We believe that the actuarial assumptions and methods used to measure pension liabilities and costs for financial accounting purposes are appropriate in the circumstances.
24. Provision, when material, has been made for:
 - a. Losses to be sustained from inability to fulfill any sales commitments.
 - b. Losses to be sustained as a result of purchase commitments for inventory quantities in excess of normal requirements or at prices in excess of the prevailing market prices.
 - c. Losses to be sustained as a result of the reduction of excess or obsolete inventories to their estimated net realizable value.
25. All sales transactions entered into by the Company are final and there are no side agreements with customers, or other terms in effect, which allow for the return of merchandise, except for defectiveness or other conditions covered by usual and customary warranties.
26. The Company has properly accounted for and disclosed those arrangements in which goods and services, or both, are to be delivered separately in a bundled sales arrangement in accordance with FASB ASC 605-25, *Revenue Recognition -- Multiple-Element Arrangements*, as amended by FASB ASU 2009-13, *Revenue Recognition (Topic 605): Multiple-Deliverable Revenue Arrangements* (FASB ASU 2009-13).
27. The financial statements disclose all of the matters of which we are aware that are relevant to the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, including significant conditions and events, and our plans.
28. A valuation allowance against deferred tax assets at the balance-sheet date is not considered necessary because it is more likely than not the deferred tax asset will be fully realized.
29. The calculations of current and deferred tax expense (benefit) and the measurement of the related current and deferred tax assets and liabilities have been determined based on appropriate provisions of applicable enacted tax laws and regulations.
30. Uncertain tax positions have been accounted for in accordance with the provisions of FASB ASC 740, *Income Taxes*.
31. We have not received any advice or opinion that contradicts the Company's support for the tax accrual related matters, that contradicts the Company's financial statement amounts and presentations, or that is necessary to understand the Company's tax accrual and related matters.
32. We have disclosed to you all accounting policies and practices we have adopted that, if applied to significant items or transactions, would not be in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. We have evaluated the impact of the application of each such policy and practice, both individually and in the aggregate, on the Company's current period financial statements and our assessment of internal control over financial reporting, and the expected impact of each such policy and practice on future periods' financial reporting. We believe the effect of these policies and practices on the financial statements is not material. Furthermore, we do not believe the

E. Ritter Telephone Company
March 27, 2013
Page 6 of 6

impact of the application of these policies and practices will be material to the financial statements in future periods.

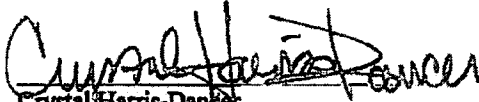
Further, we confirm that we are responsible for the fair presentation in the financial statements of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Very truly yours,

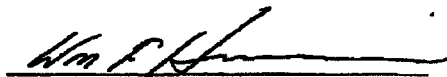
E. Ritter Telephone Company



Gregg W. Smith
Chief Financial and Business Intelligence Officer
E. Ritter Communications Holdings, Inc.
E. Ritter Telephone Company



Crystal Harris-Dantes
Director of Accounting
E. Ritter Communications Holdings, Inc.
E. Ritter Telephone Company



William F. Harrison
Chief Financial Officer, E. Ritter & Company
Secretary/Treasurer, E. Ritter Telephone Company



KPMG LLP
Suite 900
50 North Front Street
Memphis, TN 38103-1194

Received & Inspected
OCT 22 2013
FCC Mail Room

May 1, 2013

Audit Committee
E. Ritter & Company
Marked Tree, Arkansas

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of E. Ritter & Company (the Company) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2012, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Company's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses and/or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses and/or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. The identified significant deficiency described below is not considered to be material weakness.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the following deficiencies in the Company's internal control to be significant deficiencies:



Audit Committee
E. Ritter & Company
May 1, 2013
Page 2 of 2

Nonroutine Transactions

The Company's existing control structure failed to prevent or detect a number of errors related to the presentation and disclosure of certain activities related to acquisitions and divestitures. We recommend that management reevaluate their control structure regarding the accounting, presentation and disclosure for nonrecurring transactions.

Management Response

Management agrees that our operating structure was not effective in developing the information needed to properly record and document the purchase accounting details of the Millington acquisition transaction on a timely and accurate basis. We underestimated the complexity of the task, under-resourced the implementation, and required more support from KPMG than should have been required. Our accounting systems and processes are focused on recording transactions and issuing internal financial statements. In 2013, we must develop additional capacity to manage our external financial reporting and to be prepared for future transactions as we grow the Company.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the audit committee of E. Ritter & Company, and others within the organization, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties. E. Ritter & Company's written response to the significant deficiency identified in our audit was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements, and accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Very truly yours,

KPMG LLP

Memphis, Tennessee